



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08442.0002-04000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
**Joseph C. CAUTHEN** ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
)  
Application No.: **10/085,040** ) Examiner: U. Chattopadhyay  
)  
Filed: **March 1, 2002** ) Confirmation No.: 8078  
)  
For: **INTERVERTEBRAL DISC** )  
**ANNULUS STENT** )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed October 17, 2005, the period for response having been extended to March 17, 2006 by a request for extension of two months and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, Applicant proposes that this application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment sections of this paper.